



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5803**

February Session, 2008

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB05803PD \_\_\_\_\_ 041508 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) For the purposes of sections  
2       2 to 6, inclusive, of this act, "animal control officer" includes a regional  
3       animal control officer, assistant regional animal control officer and  
4       municipal animal control officer, as defined in section 22-327 of the  
5       general statutes, and an assistant municipal animal control officer and  
6       "council" means the Police Officer Standards and Training Council  
7       established pursuant to section 7-294b of the 2008 supplement to the  
8       general statutes.

9       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The council, in consultation  
10      with the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall develop a training  
11      program, within available appropriations, for certification of animal  
12      control officers. The program shall consist of not less than eighty hours  
13      of training including, but not limited to: (1) State and federal law  
14      relating to arrest, search and seizure; (2) state law relating to animals;  
15      (3) the basics of investigation; (4) report writing and record keeping;  
16      (5) shelter or pound standards; (6) disease recognition; (7) euthanasia  
17      policy; (8) ethics and professionalism in dealing with the public; (9)  
18      cruelty and neglect investigations, including, but not limited to, blood  
19      sports and cults; (10) animal bite and vicious animal investigations;

20 (11) officer safety and loss prevention; (12) animal care, identification,  
21 behavior, handling and capture and restraint techniques; (13) overview  
22 of the legal system, court structure and terminology; (14) warrants; and  
23 (15) civil liability issues.

24 (b) The council shall hire one instructor for the purpose of  
25 instructing, certifying and retraining animal control officers. The  
26 council, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, shall  
27 approve or develop an examination, within available appropriations,  
28 designed to test proficiency in the subjects covered by the training  
29 program developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The  
30 examination may be written, oral, practical or a combination thereof.

31 (c) The council, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
32 Agriculture, may approve, reject or revoke approval of any animal  
33 control officer training courses, including, but not limited to, courses  
34 provided by the National Animal Control Association, the American  
35 Humane Association or the Humane Society of the United States for  
36 inclusion in the training programs developed pursuant to this section.

37 (d) The council may, from time to time, amend or alter the training  
38 programs and the examination the council develops pursuant to this  
39 section.

40 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) Except as provided in  
41 subsection (e) of this section, each person appointed as an animal  
42 control officer on and after July 1, 2008, shall be certified by the council  
43 not later than two years after such appointment. Except as provided in  
44 subsection (b) of this section, the council shall only certify a person  
45 who has satisfactorily completed the training program developed  
46 pursuant to section 2 of this act. The provisions of section 7-294d of the  
47 general statutes concerning police officer training shall not apply to  
48 animal control officers appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or  
49 22-331a of the general statutes unless the duties of such officer include  
50 carrying a firearm or custodial arrest.

51 (b) The council, in consultation with the Commissioner of

52 Agriculture, shall develop a retraining program for persons who have  
53 served as animal control officers in the state for a period of five years  
54 since July 1, 1997. Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section,  
55 such officers shall complete the retraining program and become  
56 certified in order to continue to serve as animal control officers. The  
57 council shall refuse to certify any officer that fails to complete such  
58 training satisfactorily.

59 (c) The council may decline to issue a certificate if (1) the applicant  
60 falsified any document in order to obtain or renew the certificate, (2)  
61 the applicant has been convicted of a felony, (3) the applicant has been  
62 found not guilty of a felony by reason of mental disease or defect  
63 pursuant to section 53a-13 of the general statutes, (4) the applicant has  
64 been convicted of a violation of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 of the  
65 general statutes or section 29-9 of the general statutes, or (5) the  
66 applicant has been refused issuance of a certificate or similar  
67 authorization or has had a certificate or other similar authorization  
68 revoked by another jurisdiction on grounds that would authorize  
69 revocation under the provisions of this subsection.

70 (d) The council may revoke any certificate if (1) the certificate was  
71 issued by administrative error, (2) the certificate was obtained through  
72 misrepresentation or fraud, (3) the holder falsified any document in  
73 order to obtain or renew any certificate, (4) the holder has been  
74 convicted of a felony, (5) the holder has been found not guilty of a  
75 felony by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13  
76 of the general statutes, (6) the holder has been convicted of a violation  
77 of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 of the general statutes or section  
78 29-9 of the general statutes, or (7) the holder has been refused issuance  
79 of a certificate or similar authorization or has had the certificate or  
80 other authorization revoked by another jurisdiction on grounds that  
81 would authorize revocation under the provisions of this subsection.  
82 Whenever the council believes there is a reasonable basis for  
83 revocation of the certificate of an animal control officer, the council  
84 shall give the holder of the certificate notice and an opportunity for a  
85 hearing, in accordance with the provisions of section 4-182 of the

86 general statutes. Any officer whose certification is revoked pursuant to  
87 this section may reapply for certification no sooner than two years  
88 after the date on which the revocation order becomes final.

89 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to an animal control  
90 officer appointed in a municipality with a population of less than  
91 fifteen thousand.

92 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) If a person who was  
93 employed and certified as an animal control officer is not employed in  
94 such capacity, such certification shall expire after two years of  
95 unemployment, unless such officer has been on a leave of absence.  
96 Upon reemployment as an animal control officer, such officer shall  
97 apply for certification and become certified in the manner provided in  
98 sections 2 and 3 of this act.

99 (b) A municipality may appoint a temporary animal control officer  
100 who does not hold a certificate pursuant to sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of  
101 this act for a period not to exceed thirty days per calendar year. The  
102 council may grant a one time thirty-day extension for such temporary  
103 animal control officer. The council may encourage municipalities to  
104 share the services of animal control officers in the event a temporary  
105 animal control officer is needed by a municipality.

106 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Commissioner of  
107 Agriculture, in consultation with the Police Officer Standards and  
108 Training Council, may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
109 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the  
110 provisions of sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act, including, but not  
111 limited to, establishing procedures for applying for certification as an  
112 animal control officer.

113 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) No municipality shall be  
114 liable for compensation to any municipal animal control officer whose  
115 certification under section 3 or 4 of this act has been revoked or  
116 expired during the period of such revocation or expiration.

117       Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of eighty thousand dollars is  
118 appropriated to the Department of Public Safety, from the General  
119 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the Police Officer  
120 Standards and Training Council for purposes specified in sections 1 to  
121 5, inclusive, of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**PD**           *Joint Favorable Subst.*